

REMARKS

In the Advisory Action, dated April 12, 2006, the Examiner sustained the rejection of claims 1-16, 27, and 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Passman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,493,759) (the status of claims 27 and 28 were verified by a telephone conference with the Examiner).

By this amendment, Applicants propose canceling claims 1-16, 27, 28, and 30 without prejudice or disclaimer; amending claims 17 and 29 in the same manner as the unentered after final amendment, filed March 13, 2006; and adding new claim 31 that was added in the unentered after final amendment, filed March 13, 2006. Claims 17-25, 29, and 31 will be pending after entry of this amendment.

In the Advisory Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 17-25, 29, and 31, as presented herein, are allowable over the prior art of record.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's timely allowance of the pending claims. Applicants respectfully request that the present amendment be entered since the amendment places the application in immediate condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes that the application is not now in condition for allowance, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the undersigned to discuss any outstanding issues.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 18-1945 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Dated: May 15, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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